

## Machine Stitched Cathedral Window Tutorial

**1. Here's a picture showing a row that I have already done to give you an idea of where we're going with this. For manageability, it's easiest to work on short rows, then join those rows to each other to form bigger blocks, then join the blocks together to form the quilt. So let's see how to start making these rows.**



**2. The first thing you need to decide is how big you want your blocks to be. Roughly speaking, your finished CW block's side will be about half as big as your material you cut for it. So if you cut an 8" square of material, it will make a finished CW block that is about 4" square. So as you can guess, these do take a lot of fabric. But remember that these are a quilt-as-you-go project, meaning that you do not have to buy the backing material or the batting. The reason you don't need batting is that you are folding these raw squares into 4 layers of fabric plus the window fabric, so it will be plenty warm (and heavy) without the batting. I cut my raw squares in 8.75" squares; simply because that was the most I could get out of 44" wide yardage less the selvedge. So my finished blocks are slightly larger than 4" each. Below is my stack of 8.75" squares, ready to get started.**



**3. Begin making the block by taking a square and folding it in half with right sides together. Then sew up both sides of it using a 1/4" seam.**



**4. Now, fold the top of the two sides together so that they meet. This will remind you of those paper game things we played with as kids, remember those?**





**5. Bring those two sewn corners together so that they are square with each other.**



**6. Here you can see that the corners are now aligned and square with each other.**



**7. We are now going to start sewing about 1" from those corners towards the folded edge, away from the center of the block.**



**8. Do the same on the other side so that you end up with a block that looks like this. You will now have a 2" slit in the middle of the block.**





**9. Turn the block right side out through that 2" opening.**



**10. This is how it looks when turned right side out. Kind of poufy at this point.**



**11. Use a pointy object (but be safe!) to push out the corners to a sharp point. I use a small paint brush handle for this since it has a slightly rounded edge that won't spear through the corner.**

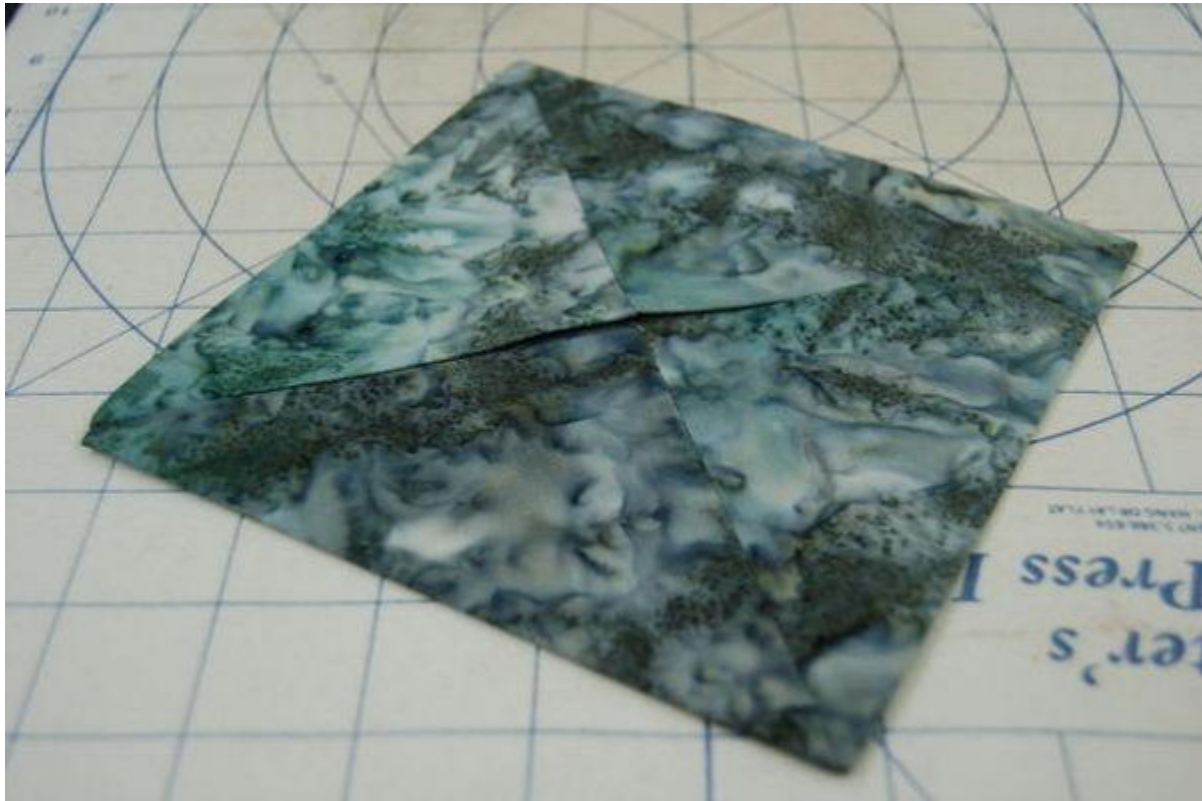


**12. Here you can see the 2" slit that we turned the block through. Some people like to hand-stitch this closed, others don't bother since it will be beneath the window fabric and won't be seen. I just leave it as is and don't worry about it.**

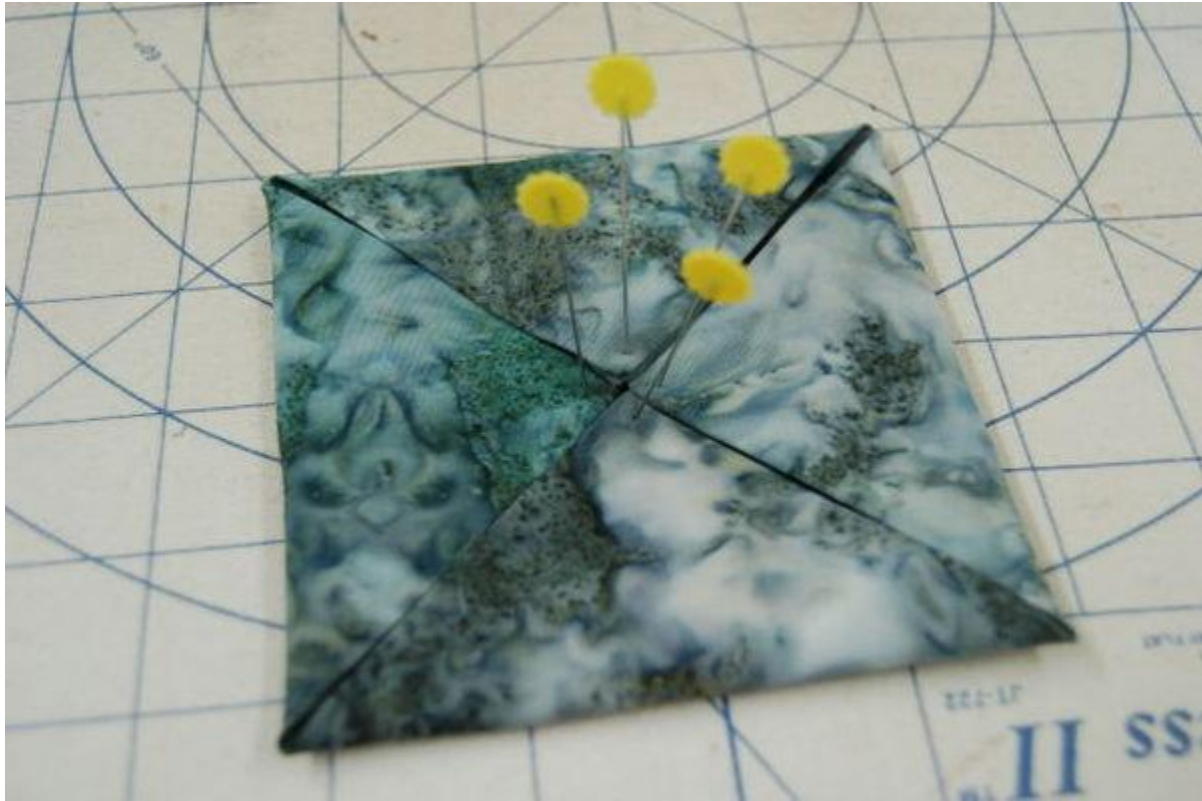




**13. Steam press the blocks flat and try not to stretch them out of square**



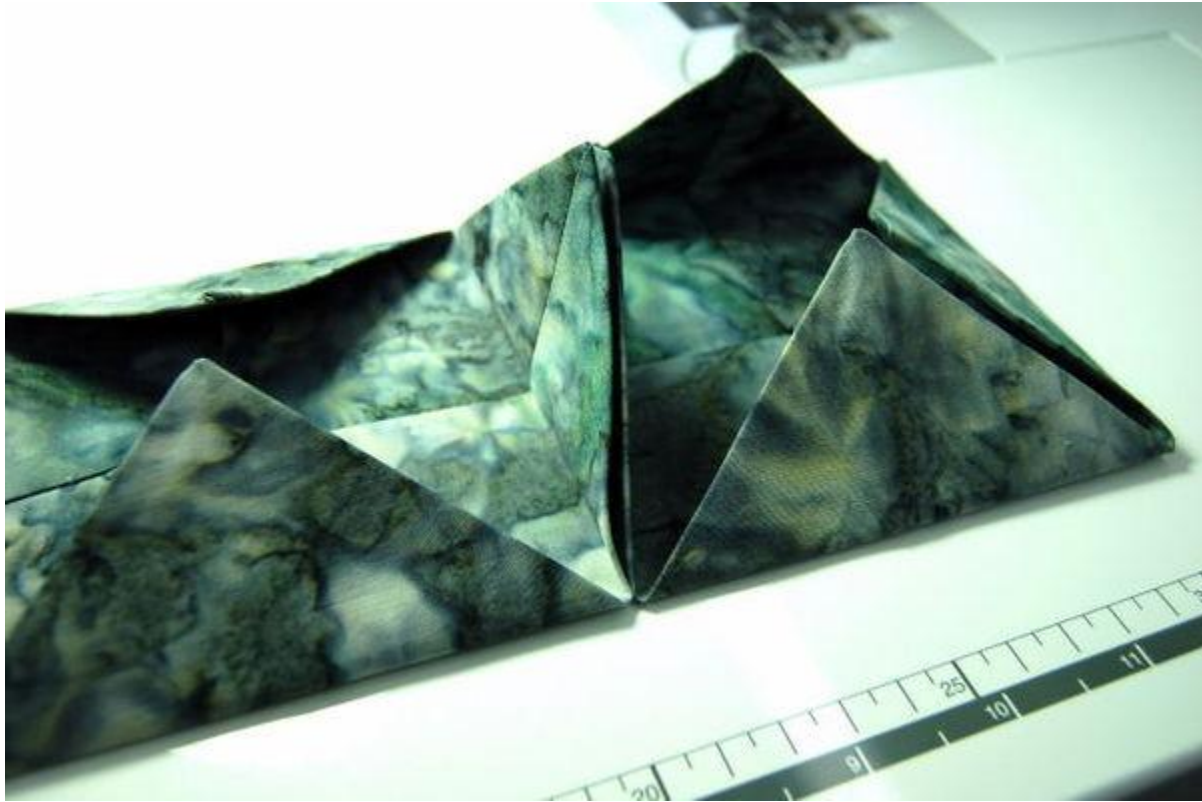
**14. Now we need to fold the corners into the middle like this and press the edges. I like to use pins to hold the corner down into the middle while ironing to avoid steam burned fingers!**



**15. After pressing lay the blocks in a stack while you continue pressing. I like to lay them with the points down so that while they cool they will hopefully cool flat rather than with the points sticking up.**

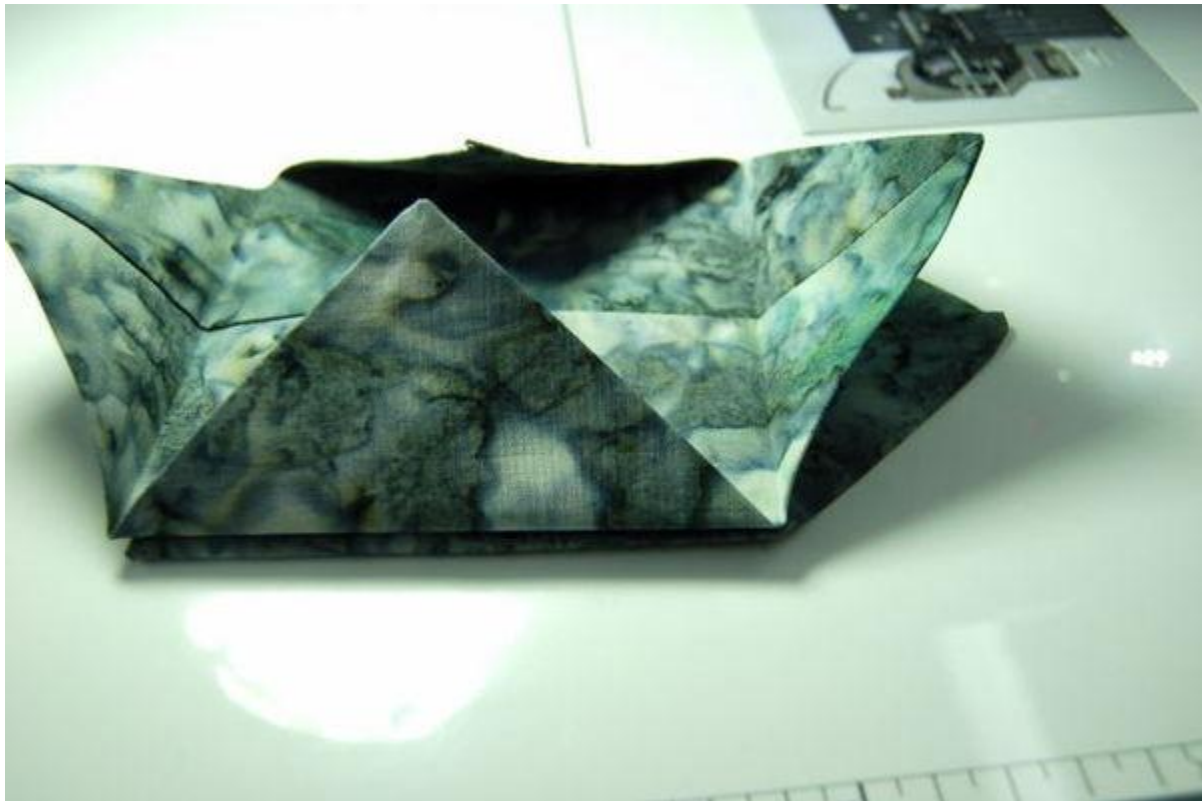


**16. Now, we're ready to stitch the blocks together. Begin by laying two blocks side by side.**





**17. Fold the right block under the left block while holding their common sides together.**



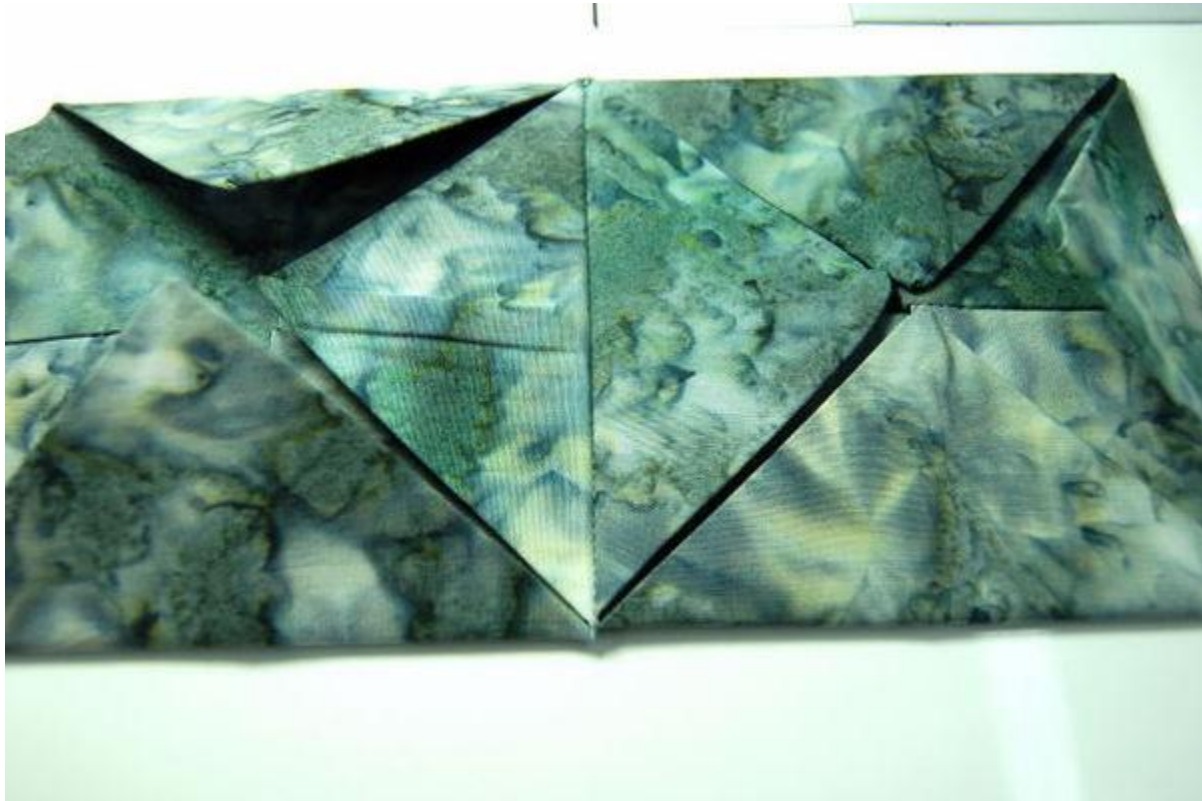
**18. Stitch across the two blocks to join them, using the visible ironed line as a guide.**



**19. All the way across now, so clip the end threads.**



**20. Open the blocks back up and they are now joined together.**





**21. Stitch all blocks for the row together like so. I'm using 5 blocks in this row.**



**22. Now, we need to stitch down the points in the middle of the block. But, we only want to do that for a point that is on the INNER portion of the row, NOT the OUTER portion. Remember, you still have to join this row to other rows and blocks, so those outer points need to remain loose until you do that. So this pic shows me taking down just one point on the end block.**



☞ Originally Posted by shopella

*I don't understand 22. what point are we pinning down?*

If you look back at pic 21, you can see that there are 4 pointed flaps on each block that converge in the center of each block. The tips of these flaps are tacked down with a few stitches to keep them in place while top-stitching the roll of fabric down over the "glass" fabric.

**23. On the middle 3 blocks, I'll tack down two points.**





**24. Row with the inner points all tacked down now. One on each end block, and two on each of the 3 inner blocks.**

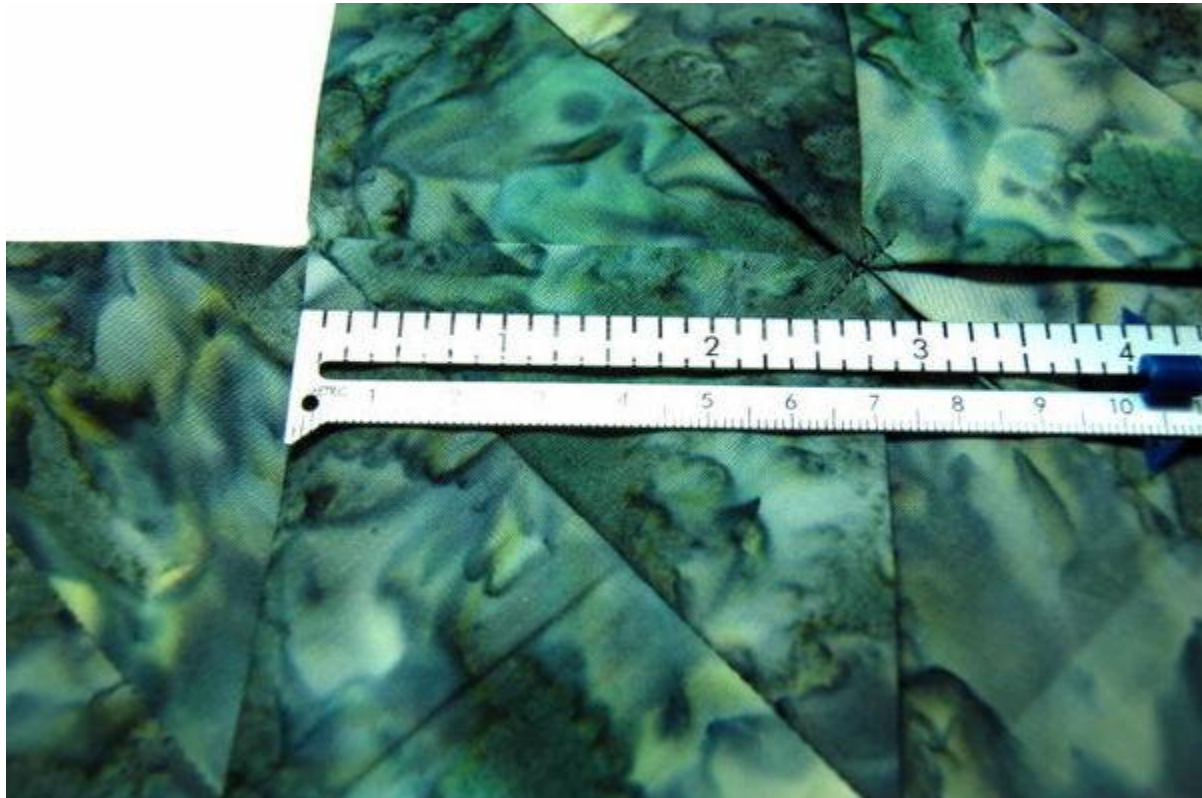




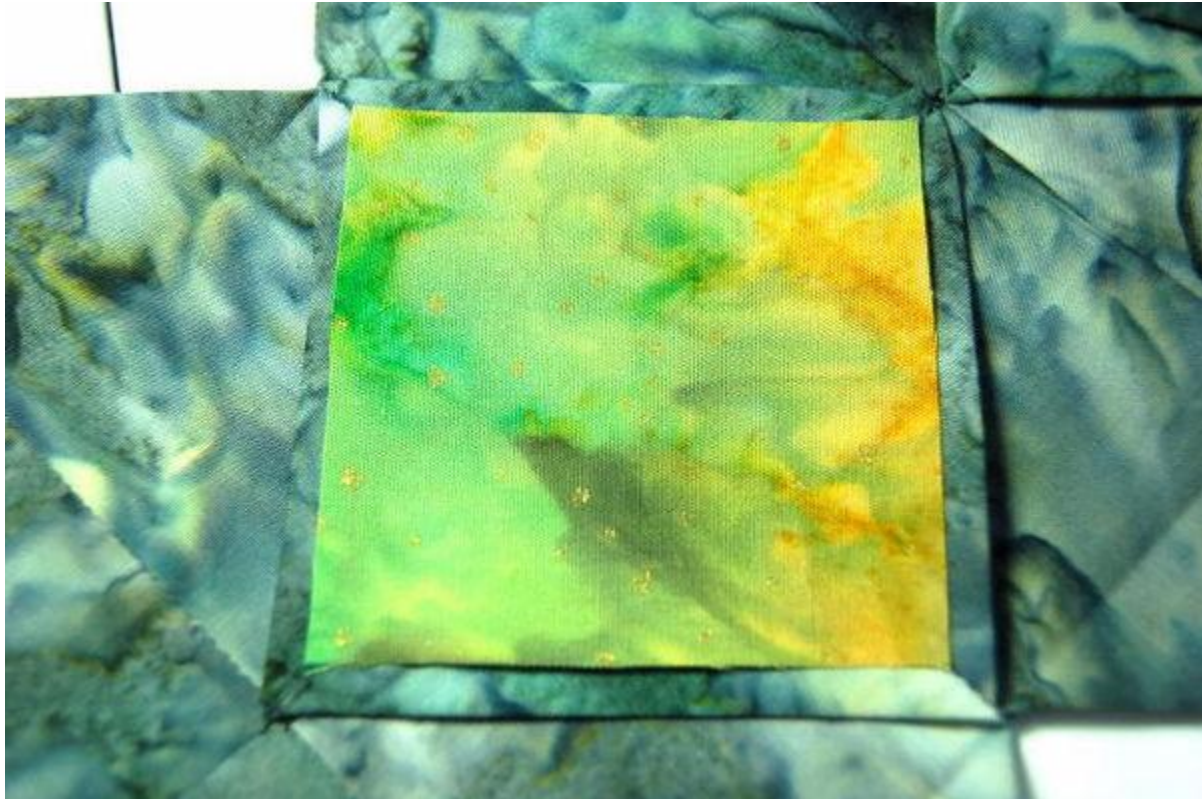
**25. We now have 4 window blocks ready for installing the glass. Below is a pic of my window glass fabrics.**



**26. To determine the size of your window glass fabrics, measure across the window area. On my 4" blocks, the diamond shaped window area measures about 2.75" across. I like to make my glass about 1/8" less all the way around, so I cut my glass fabric in 2.5" squares.**



**27. Here you can see the glass fabric layout in the window frame, about 1/8" smaller than the window frame fabric.**





**28. Now comes the fun part! Roll the edge of the window fabric so that it lies over the glass fabric by about 1/4" at the middle of the roll. You can see that it tapers to a point at each end.**



**Originally Posted by Whernandez**

*Hi Eddie,*

*I'm loving this tutorial, but I'm having a hard time understanding Step 28. Where you roll the green fabric onto the Yellowish fabric and it makes the "arc". Can you explain that a little more? I'm not sure which fabric it is that makes that half circle/arc look? Thanks in advance!*



*Wanda*

Hi Wanda,

Below is an additional pic that will show a little better how that arc is made. This pic shows that I have now joined those two rows of windows together (the row I had at the start of the tut along with the row that I created in the tut). As you can see, this creates a new set of window frames where the rows join together. Right now, they are just those two triangle "wings" from each row sticking up in the air which I now need to tack down the points on either side so that I have a square of a new "window". I have a blue glass fabric laying across it to give you an idea of where that window will be. Once I get those two points on the sides tacked down, then I would take the edge of that window and simply curve it over onto the top of the window glass fabric. These edges are bias edges so they have a lot of play in them to let you curve them like that. Does that help?



☞☞ Originally Posted by k3n

*I'm guessing that due to the bias, the edges kind of curve naturally? I did the faux method a while ago, hand stitched and this was the case with those. :-D*



**Yes, they do. Once you roll that edge of fabric over and curve it then it's very easy to get the curve there because of the bias edge. Some people pin that curve in place with 2 or 3 pins while they stitch it, but I haven't felt the need to do that. I just hold it down with 2 or 3 fingers while I'm stitching along that curve and it does fine. Too, putting the presser foot down at the start of the stitching on the curve helps hold that end in place as you begin stitching along the curve.**

**29. Beginning at the point, use the presser foot to help hold the roll of fabric flat and in place and set your needle down into the point. Use a backstitch to anchor the stitch.**



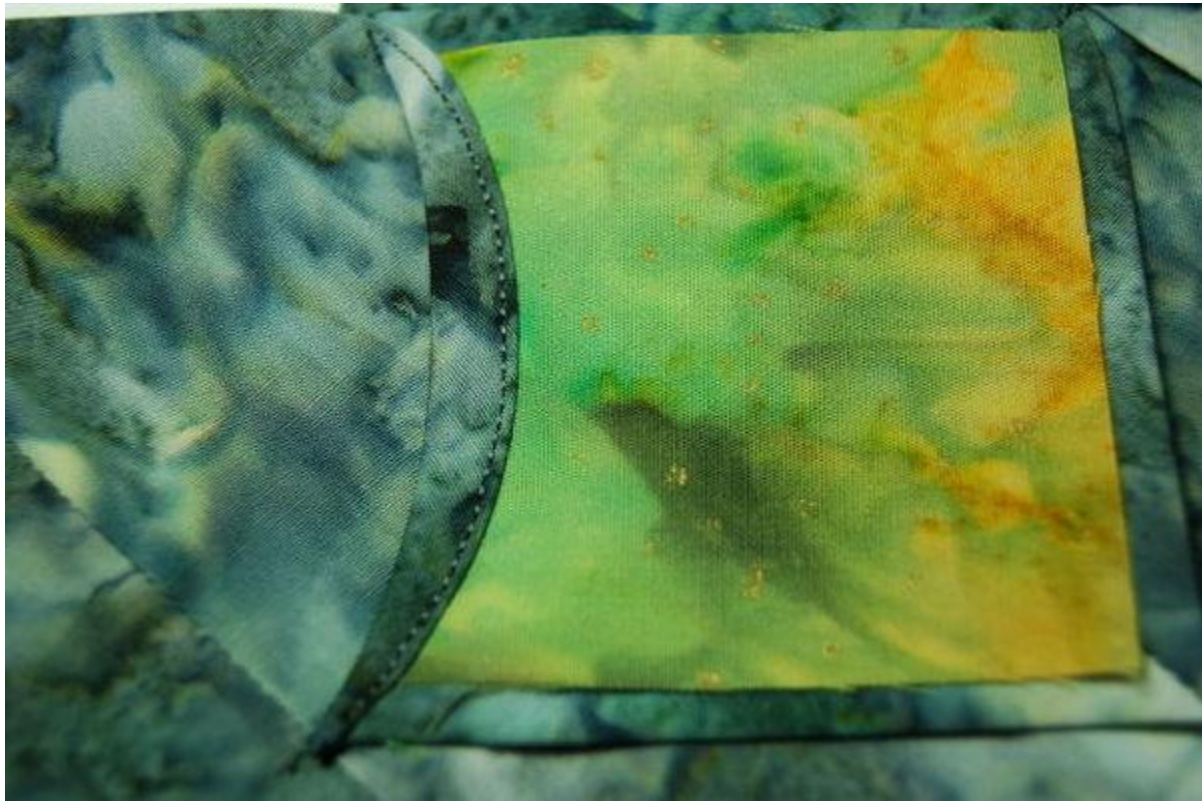
**30. Begin sewing forward just inside the edge of the fabric.**



**31. Continue on to the point and backstitch to anchor the thread and cut.**



**32. The first finished edge is now done.**





**33. Turn the block and roll the next edge over like you did the first. Try to have the points slightly overlap the previous point just a little.**





**34. Sew this edge down like you did the previous one.**



**35. Do the other two edges the same way. And here's the finished window. Pretty, eh?**



**36. That's pretty much it. You can join rows to rows in the same way that you joined blocks to blocks, and then fill in those newly created windows with glass in the same way. At the edges of the quilt you can use 1/2 a glass fabric, or use no glass at all and just turn the frame there and stitch it down. After the quilt is done, just do a binding like you normally would any quilt.**

**That's it! Enjoy! :D**

**For the triangles around the edge, you just leave those loose so that you can add more rows. When you finally get it as large as you want, then you tack those down and can leave it like that, or roll the edges and put a window glass right up to the edge as well.**



Newby0709

Here's how I treated the sides. I didn't have a king-size bed to display it. I think you can get an idea. I had no pattern, just took Eddie's tutorial and played with it.

